GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2784
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
BASMATI RICE
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to expand the definition of basmati to include more varieties of aromatic long-grained rice in an effort to facilitate the development of new varieties of the cereal that has a huge export market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose behind this move?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the proposed definition of the evolved basmati, the bar of having one of the two parents from among the traditional basmati varieties has been removed. Instead, it expands the definition by including in the family history (genealogy), a Basmati variety (Traditional or evolved) notified under Seed Act 1966, to pass the `basmati quality genes` into the new evolved varieties.

Thus, it seeks to declare that all varieties of Basmati Rice notified as Basmati Rice under the Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966) and any future variety notified as Basmati under the same Act are construed as Basmati Rice.

The proposed revised definition will facilitate the development of new Basmati varieties and will promote the trade. This proposal has been sent to the Ministry of commerce for consideration.